

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview conducted on September 21, 2005.

Attorney Docket Number

Applicant respectfully requests that the Attorney Docket No. for this matter be changed from "007056-0203/P5946" as indicated on the cover sheet received with this office action to "16159/094001; P5946".

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 17, 26, and 38 are independent. Claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-25, 27-37, and 39-45 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 9, 17, 26, and 38. Claims 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, 35-37, 39, 41, and 43 have been cancelled with this response.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 38 have been to include the limitation, "wherein said first function comprises a definition of a second function" as discussed during the Examiner Interview on September 21, 2005. Support for this limitation may be found, for example, on page 13, lines 19-20 of the Instant Specification. Dependent claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30, 32, 34, 40, 42, 44, and 45 have been amended to clarify the invention with respect to the amendments to the independent claims. Applicant asserts no new subject matter has been added by way of these claim amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by "Java!" by Ritchey (hereinafter "Ritchey") and "Object-Oriented programming and the Objective-C language" by NeXT Software, Inc. (hereinafter "NeXT"). To the extent that the rejections still applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to combining the semantics of functions, (*i.e.*, methods or procedures) and classes. By combining the semantics of functions and classes, a function may include objects previously found only in classes. For example, the function “drawSquare” may have a definition of a function “drawStraightLine.” Accordingly, claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 require, in part, that a function include a definition of another function.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant’s disclosure. See MPEP section 706.02(j).

With respect to amended independent claims 1, 9, 17, 26, and 38, Applicant respectfully asserts that Ritchey does not disclose a function including a definition of another function. In particular, Ritchey discusses JAVA™. However, as it is well known in the art, JAVA™ functions do not include definitions of other functions. Specifically, while a JAVA™ method may include a reference to another JAVA™ method, a JAVA™ method does not actually define another JAVA™ method. Therefore, Ritchey does not teach or suggest a function including the definition of another function.

Further, NeXT does not teach that which Ritchey lacks. Specifically, NeXT teaches the Objective-C programming language. Similar to JAVA™, as it is well known in the art, Objective-C methods also do not include definitions of other methods. Accordingly, NeXT does not teach or suggest a function including a definition of another function.

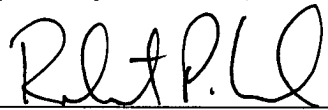
In view of the above, Ritchey and Objective-C, whether considered together or separately, do not support the rejection of amended independent claims 1, 9, 17, 26 and 38. Dependent claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23-25, 28, 30, 32-34, 40, 42, 44, and 45, which depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 9, 17, 26, and 38, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/094001).

Dated: October 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert P. Lord

Registration No.: 46,479

OSHA • Liang LLP

1221 McKinney Street, Suite 2800

Houston, Texas 77010

(713) 228-8600

(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant